THE PAGE & PANEL JOURNAL

LOVE

60-cent Stamp August 16, 2002 Atlantic City, New Jersey

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE DEDICATION CEREMONY American Philatelic Society Stampshow Sheraton Atlantic City Convention Center 1 Ocean Way, Atlantic City, New Jersey

STAMP SPECIFICATIONS: Designer: Michael Osborne

Art Director and Typographer: Ethel Kessler

Modeler: Avery Dennison

Printing Process: Gravure Colors: Black, cyan, gold, magenta, yellow

Paper: Pre-phosphored, Type I Gum: Self-adhesive

Format: Pane of 20

Size: 0.77 inches by 1.05 inches (image)
0.91 inches by 1.19 inches (overall)
5.75 inches by 5.35 inches (pane)
Plate Numbers: "V" followed by five single digits

Marginal Markings: Copyright USPS 2002 Pane position diagram and bar code and price USPS Item No. 5628

60 AUG FIRST DAY OF ISSUE 16 2002

It is appropriate that PPP 99 and PPP 100 feature the two LOVE stamps . . . the 37-cent and the 60-cent denominations . . . since this will bring to a close the production of Porter Philatelic Pages and matching First Day Covers. At age 75, (closer to 76) I find it necessary to discontinue this line of souvenir pages and FDCs.

Actually, I did not intend to publish more than two pages. The first page, featuring the Horace Moses stamp, was to be only a test run for the production of the Frank Laubach page that I had already determined I would publish since I had met Dr. Laubach in Paris, France in 1945. But, other stamps were issued that "caught my fancy," and consequently page after page were published. Publishing PPPs turned out to be fun . . . but all good things must come to an end.

These LOVE stamps introduce a subject that means a great deal to me. Love is an important human emotion. It is the essential ingredient in relationships of all kinds. There are three types of love: filial, erotic, and agape. Filial love: love between parents, siblings, and good friends. Erotic love: base sensual expressions. Agape love: God's love.

Agape love was clearly demonstrated with the fulfillment of the following Scripture text. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have evertasting life" John 3:16.

gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16.

When one acknowledges that he or she is a sinner and recognizes that Jesus became his or her substitute when He died on the

Virial one acknowledges triat he of sites a similer and recognizes that Jesus became his or her substitute when he died on the Cross, as the sinless sacrifice to pay for the sins of the world... and realizes He was resurrected, victorious over sin, death, and hell... and by faith believes in Him as his or her personal Savior... immediately, that one receives forgiveness of all sin and everlasting life as a gift from God. This is truly the culmination of agape love.

The question may be raised: "Is salvation that simple to obtain?" Yes, that simple. It is obtained as a gift. No one can be good enough, or pay enough, to obtain salvation. The Lord Jesus Christ was good enough. He was perfect. He paid enough... with His life. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God; not of works, lest any man should loast!" Episcages 28.0 boast" Ephesians 2:8,9.

As a layman, I am dedicated to the propagation of the Gospel . . . which means, "good news." It is good news that God gives etemal life to anyone who believes His word and by faith receives His gift.

RFP: ASPPP #153 CL, APS #133290, AFDCS #17342. CMA #012, BCCC #262, Americana #1444, Ind. SC #1101R

#50 0150

Slotus Sorter PORTER PHILATELIC PAGES 6 FCSs: Designed and published by Robert Ford Porter, Litt.D., 3925 N. Delaware Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46205-2649 (317) 283-2457

A.S.P.P.P.

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PO Box 561

Paramus, NJ 07653-0561

AMERICOVER 2003 Somerset, NJ:

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The Page & Panel Journal is published quarterly by the American Society for Philatelic Pages & Panels and mailed during February, May, August and November. Opinions expressed within this publication are solely those of the authors, and may not represent those of the ASPPP and/or its Board of Directors.

ASPPP Membership dues are \$15/1-year, \$29/2years or \$43/3-years to US addresses, \$21/year to Foreign addresses. To join or to purchase back issues or for additional information on membership in the ASPPP, which includes a subscription to The Page & Panel Journal, write to Gerald Blankenship at PO Box 475, Crosby TX 77532.

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Ron Walenciak, President & Editor email: ronw@asppp.org

PO Box 1042, Washington Twp., NJ 07676 201-724-2613

Gary West, Vice President email: gary_ufo44@hotmail.com

506 North 14th, Laporte, TX 77571 281-471-8984

John Ngai, Secretary/Treasurer email: johnngai@email.com

PO Box 381, Rego Park, NY 11374 718-275-2916

Bud Scrantom, Founder email: asppp101@aol.com

1138 Princeton Dr., Richardson, TX 75081 972-644-2153

Gerald Blankenship email: asppp134@aol.com

PO Box 475, Crosby, TX 77532 281-324-2709

David Weinberg email: dnweinberg@aol.com

1613 16th Ln., Lake Worth, FL 33463-4360 561-439-8977

May Day Taylor email: mdt@ubs4cars.com

100 Grafton St., Chevy Chase, MD 20815 301-657-1920

Jim Canon, Immediate Past President email: jimcanon@interl.net

PO Box 3, Keokuk, IA 52632 319-524-9500

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Page & Panel Journal, Volume 19 Number 4

On the Cover: A milestone is reached as Robert Ford Porter produces Porter Philatelic Page # 100 and then decides to end the series of Pages he

started in 1984. See the complete story on page 8 of this *Page & Panel Journal*.

Board of Directors/Committees	2
Opening Remarks	3
by Ron Walenciak	
President's Letter	4
by Ron Walenciak	
Commemorative Panels for FD Cancels	5
by Mark Gereb	
Porter Philatelic Pages Turns 100	8
by Ron Walenciak	
Philately or Ephemera1	0
by David Jones	
Pages & Panels at Graebner1	3
by May Day Taylor	

Review: Postal Service Guideby John Ngai	15
Medal of Honor Autographed Pages	17
by Gerald Blankenship	
Election Ballot	20
by Lloyd deVries	
2003 Annual Auction Notes	21
by Gerald Blankenship	
Membership Report	22
ASPPP Website Update	23
by Ron Walenciak	
Member Ads	24
Renewal Offer- Free Stamp Posters	26
Renewal Application	

OPENING REMARKS

By ASPPP Editor Ron Walenciak

This issue has some really different articles. Thanks to a chance meeting in Atlantic City, NJ this summer, I saw Mark Gereb making up some unusual first day canceled Commemorative Panels and thought it was so interesting that it had to make the Journal; see his story starting on page In a different chance "meeting", this time online. David Jones posted an invitation to discuss Canadian Stamp Announcements, and the result is his article on page 10 describing his country's philatelic pages. I've asked David to consider writing a regular column on philatelic pages and posters from outside the US, and he is willing, so I think you will see him in future Journals. If you collect Canadian announcements or find them interesting, please contact David at the address listed in his article.

I would like the *Page & Panel Journal* (and the ASPPP) to live up to its mandate to promote the study of **all** philatelic pages and panels; to do that, I would like us to expand outside the United States and see what the rest of the world has to offer. Jim Canon has covered a few other countries in his "Foreign Counterparts to Pages and Panels", and hopefully will add to what David has to say.

In the next issue I expect to have the article and listing of known first-day-canceled Commemorative Panels. I'd still like more input, so if you have any, let me know which ones and how the stamps are affixed for cancellation; you can contact me at the address listed on page 2. Thanks, and Happy Holidays to you all!

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Ron Walenciak

I recently thought of an idea that might help broaden our Page & Panel collecting interests, or at least would give everyone an idea of what they could do with Pages and Panels.

I am going to create Study Groups for the specialists among us. Each Study Group will be run by a member-collector who already collects these items, or by someone who is truly interested in that aspect of collecting. That person will be responsible for communicating with other members and collectors on the subject and for writing a short status report in each issue of our Page & Panel Journal to keep the rest of us up to date. Other members can participate in Study Groups as they wish, either providing information based on their own collection (even if not a true collector of that subject) or sharing the knowledge they have accumulated over the years.

I'm hoping that many of you will actively participate in this exchange of information. I'm creating a few groups now just to get the concept going; what we actually do will evolve over time, I believe, and new groups will be added as collector interest expands. Any thoughts on groups that would be desirable should be sent to me at ronw@asppp.org.

The first group is the Plate Number Coil Study Group. Gerald Blankenship will head that group. Gerald is one of the most knowledgeable collectors of PNCs on Souvenir Pages (and PNCs in general, for that matter.) His previous series of articles on Transportation Coil PNCs on Pages, and the research he did to find all position, number and watermark variations, was truly inspiring. Gerald can be reached at the street or email address listed on page 2.

The second group is the EFO/Varieties Study Group. "EFO" stands for "Errors, Freaks and Oddities", and is a common term within the regular philatelic community. In our case, "Errors" are major problems with a Page or Panel; generally, the Page error is that the first day of issue can-

cellation has a different date or city. Pages with error stamps (like the two-tailed cat on the Mail Order stamp) are also "Errors". "Freaks" are more like printing errors (like color or image shifts on the Page itself). "Oddities" are unusual occurrences, such as a Page with a cancellation but no stamps, stamps but no cancellation, upside-down cancellations, or duplicate or missing stamps. "Varieties", to me, are interesting differences from a normal Page or Panel that are not EFOs. For example, if a block or strip of different stamps is affixed to a Page, there is always the possibility that the top (or left-most) stamp will be different on certain Pages.

I'm going to head that group myself at this time. Please read my comments in the Web Site Update article on page 23. I'm looking for volunteers to help identify EFO/Vs, even if you're not interested in collecting them yourself. While I don't have a collection of EFO/Vs either, I have some knowledge of what is out there from my years as Editor of the *Journal*. I've certainly been privileged to see a lot of interesting Pages and Panels! Perhaps someone will come along and take this Study Group from me in the future.

Some of the other ideas I have for Study Groups include: Autographs (all philatelic pages and panels), Booklet Panes (Pages), Watermarks (Pages), Non-US philatelic pages, Privately-produced Pages, and possibly Topical Pages and Panels. I'd welcome your suggestions and ideas for other Study Groups, and your comments on the Groups that I've mentioned above.

It's election time once again; please take the time to vote. The Board Members are running unopposed, but there is a question on the ballot about expanding the Board by one member.

On behalf of all of us on the Board, best wishes for the holidays, and the new year!

COMMEMORATIVE PANELS FOR FIRST DAY CANCELS

By Mark Gereb

I've thought of a new and interesting way of mixing Commemorative Panels and first day of issue cancellations.

Unlike Souvenir Pages, Commemorative Panels are somewhat "generic" in design. While the artwork and engravings on the Panels are chosen to complement the stamp subject, they don't necessarily apply only to that specific stamp; the descriptive text is also very general in nature, and only occasionally mentions the current issue.

When I attend stamp shows, I occasionally buy Panels on subjects such as Love and Christmas (among others) at very low prices. I remove the stamps that were attached to the Panel, and use the Panel to get a first day cancellation for a different stamp on the same topic.

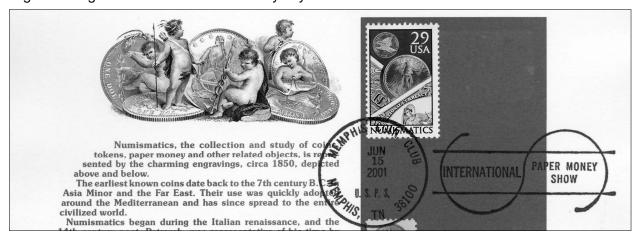
For example, the Liberty Panel (#268) on the following page was originally designed for the 1986 22-cent Liberty stamp. I purchased one of these Panels, and had the 34-cent Liberty coil stamp from 2001 affixed and mailed it in for cancellation on the coil stamp's first day of issue. I also affixed one of the original 22-cent stamps in this case, since I had the block that I removed from the Panel. Only the bottom line of text specifically references the 22-cent stamp, by mentioning the designer's name and the first day city

and date. Otherwise, the Panel could just as well have been issued for the coil stamp itself.

The Panel doesn't even have to be used for a US stamp first day. Commemorative Panel #354 was issued to commemorate the 1990 Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands stamp. In August 2001, the Marshall Islands issued a set of stamps honoring Naval Heroes of the Pacific at the APS Stampshow in Chicago, IL. Since I was there, I purchased and affixed the Marshall's stamp and had the show first day cancellation applied (see page 8). Once again, only the bottom line of text references the original stamps.

I have made up similar Panels for the Love stamps issued in Atlantic City this year (using older Love Panels), for the Greetings From America stamps (using the bicentennial States of the Union Panels), and for a show cancellation at the International Paper Money Show (using the 1991 Numismatics Panel shown below.)

While collecting Panels in this way might not appeal to the "purists" among us, it gives me the opportunity to be creative and make up first day cancelled items that are tied to my attendance at those first day ceremonies (or shows), items which therefore have a special meaning to me.





AMERICAN COMMEMORATIVES



Liberty



ÉDOUARD RENÉ DE LABOULAY

In 1865, Edouard Rene Lefebvre de Laboulaye, a French professor and historian, proposed that his country honor the people of the United States with a gift celebrating 100 years of American freedom. It would be a colossal monument—a symbol of the spirit of friendship and cooperation between the two nations.

As interest in the project grew, the sculptor Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi was commis-

sioned to journey across the United States, searching for a site suitable for the monument. He found the place at once, as his ship steamed into the nation's greatest port—New York Harbor. Here, on Bedloe's Island (later renamed Liberty Island), Bartholdi would erect the most recognizable statue in the world. It was no easy task, and while supporters in both countries raised funds

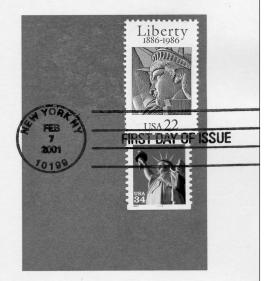
for the project, Bartholdi went to work designing the enormous figure, which, when finished, would stand over 150 feet tall. To support the huge statue from within, Alexandre Gustave Eiffel, later famous for the Eiffel Tower he built at the Paris Exposition of 1889, engineered a marvel of 19th century ironwork. Weighing 125 tons, the framework could support the copper skin of the statue in winds blowing over 100 miles an hour.

When the statue was finished, sufficient funds had yet to be raised for the pedestal on which it would stand. American architect Richard M. Hunt had designed the massive stone and concrete structure to be built on the star shaped foundation of an old fort, but financial support for the project had waned. Joseph Pulitzer, an immigrant himself and publisher of the New York World, took up the cause and started to raise money in the United States for the pedestal's completion. Donations came in from across the nation, from the rich and the poor, the young and the old. Pulitzer published the names of all who contributed, and within 5 months over \$100,000 was raised.

On July 4, 1886, the completed statue was officially dedicated. From that day on, "Lady Liberty" has stood with glowing torch held high, welcoming all who come to America seeking freedom. Her voice, set down by Emma Lazarus in the poem cast on a plaque at her feet, calls out to the world,

"Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

This stamp was designed by Howard Paine of Delaplane, Virginia. It was issued on July 4, 1986, in New York, New York.





Stamps printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Washington, D.C.

Copyright 1986 United States Postal Service

No. 268 in a series

July 4,1986/Printed in U.S.A.

(Liberty coil 2001 first day on a 1986 Liberty Commemorative Panel.)



AMERICAN COMMEMORATIVES

On many maps the coral atolls and ancient volcanic peaks of Micronesia appear as scarcely more than a sprinkling of dots scattered across the western Pacific. Despite their numbers — over 2200 islands spread between the Philip-

ALLEY OF PALMS

pines and Hawaii — these tropical isles amount to a total landmass only one-seventh that of the Hawaiian Islands.

The different peoples of these islands have a rich and varied history. Some trace their cultures back to a civilization that flourished nearly a thousand years ago. At Pohnpei, one of the four Federated States of Micronesia, are found some of the most impressive archaeological monuments in the Pacific. Here on the artificial island of Nan Modol is an ancient city whose magnificent stone canals have earned it the nickname,

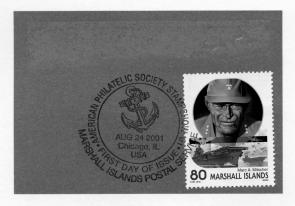
"the Venice of Micronesia."
Other islands in the

states of Kosrae, Truk and
Yap are noted for more
recent, tragic history. During
World War II, these tiny palm-studded

atolls were often the scene of fierce fighting, and scattered along their shores are the monuments and graves of those who fell in battle.

Because so much of their lives were centered on the sea, early Micronesians excelled at navigation and seamanship. Among the Marshall Islands, the people learned





to sail their outrigger canoes from island to island with the help of stick charts like the one depicted on these stamps. These charts, made of flat sticks woven together, represent the unique patterns of ocean swells encountered between each island. Shells indicated the islands themselves, and the entire chart was committed to memory.

Today, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia are building upon their unique heritage to forge a new era of national identity. Commemorating their history and spirit, these stamps were issued September 28, 1990 at Washington, D.C. Both designs were created by Herb Kane of Captain Cook, Hawaii.

Stamps printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Washington, D.C. Copyright 1990 United States Postal Service

No. 354 in a series

September 28,1990 / Printed in U.S.A.

(Marshall Islands show first day cancel on a US Commemorative Panel.)

PORTER PHILATELIC PAGES "TURNS" 100

By Ron Walenciak

With the two Love stamps issued August 16, 2002 in Atlantic City, Robert Ford Porter produced Porter Philatelic Pages (PPP) #99 and #100 and reached a milestone after eighteen years of producing his own pages.

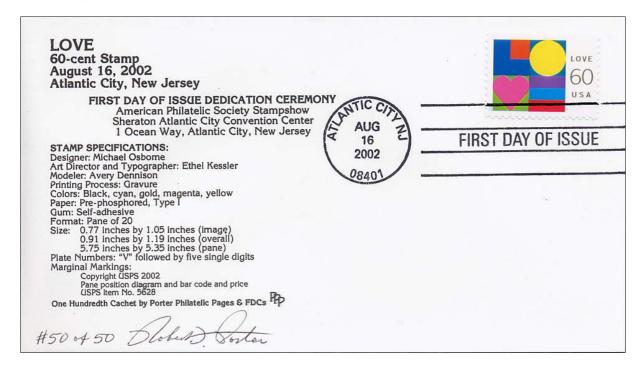
An avid Souvenir Page collector, Robert started out in 1984 attempting to produce a page of his own to honor Dr. Frank Laubach, and ran a test page for the Horace Moses issue to see how it would turn out. Since producing a page wasn't that difficult, Robert decided to produce pages for stamps that, as he says, "struck my fancy".

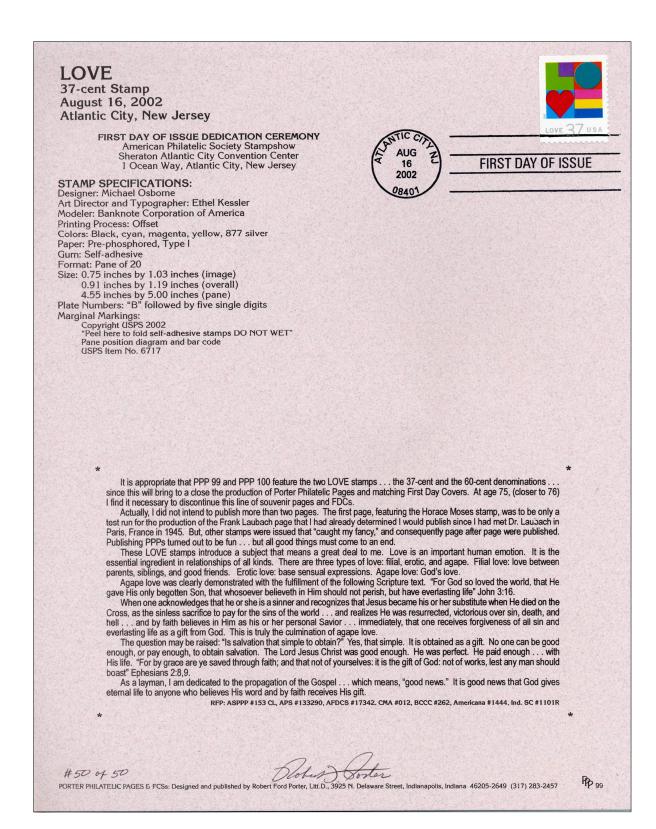
This philosophy has resulted in only 100 Porter Philatelic Pages in 18 years. Each page is designed so that a block of stamps and a first day cover can be displayed in a balanced layout with some of the same elements as a Souvenir Page.

These pages, which feature stamp specifications and a commentary on the stamp subject, have the stamp affixed and cancelled on the first day of issue, with space for the block and first day cover to be mounted on the page. PPP's are available with or without an actual first day cover; fully-serviced pages are available with either an Artmaster Cachet or a matching PPP Cachet (see cover example below).

At age seventy-five, while still wanting to work full-time for Lifegate, Inc. and take care of some personal responsibilities, Robert decided to bring the production of PPP's to a close. Therefore, PPP #100 will be the final page of the series.

PPP back issues are still available from Robert, and a collection of PPP #1 to PPP #93 is currently being auctioned via Robert. For additional information, see the ASPPP website www.asppp.com or contact Robert Porter at 3925 North Delaware St., Indianapolis, IN 46205-2649. You can also email Robert directly at "RFPandOPP@aol.com".





(The "other" half of Porter Philatelic Pages Love Page set, PPP99.)

PHILATELY OR EPHEMERA?: THE ISSUE OF POSTAL DOCUMENTATION

By David G. Jones

I have been a collector of Canada Post Office documents since 1955, ever since my post office employee uncle gave me a stack of new issue posters and other written material related to new issues. I had been a stamp collector for several years, and I was intrigued by what the Post Office was saying about its stamps. I thought even as a youngster that this was an important part of philately.

As any collector knows, the factors influencing value are production volume, availability, quality and interest (i.e. are there potential buyers?). Having embarked on the mission of establishing a complete, unblemished collection of Canadian issue posters, I was soon to discover that though the production volume had been large (at least one poster to each post office); availability was extremely low. There were other factors at work here. During the war and post war years, paper was in short supply, and would have been used again and again. Paper saving was not common in such circumstances.

In later years, Postmasters were under orders to post then destroy. The quality of what was available varied enormously, as most were stapled or scotch-taped to the wall. The community of interest was, and remains low because, I imagine, few recognize the philatelic relevancy. There were few opportunities to buy or trade. I had to do it all myself. (Over the years I had contact with perhaps 20-25 international collectors of Canadian material, but the "community" is not vibrant.)

Sadly, we in Canada do not share the enthusiasm or achievements of American collectors of Souvenir Pages (which we do not have) or Stamp Posters. Incidentally, it has not been the practice of either the P.O.D. or collectors to have such material cancelled, though many did have their letter-sized P.S. 14's stamped and cancelled. The collecting challenge has been exacerbated by stamp release frequency. Until the mid-1950's, Canada issued only three or four new stamps. By the time we get into the 70's, we are seeing 15 posters a year. I spent a lot of time visiting post offices! Often I was too late: many clerks and Postmasters destroy "old" material with fanatical zeal.

Despite these challenges, since 1955 I have assembled F to VF copies of 99% of the new issue posters. I have VF copies of all the new issue "handouts" that were available to post office customers (called P.S. 14's for some reason). Further, I hold a great deal of literature, including graphic and text notices, instructions to postmasters and miscellaneous other material. My collection encompasses almost 500 Canadian new issue posters. I also hold a smattering of such material from the U.S., Bermuda and the U.K.

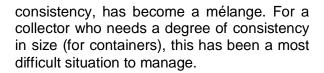
Here's some historical notes about the subject:

- Canadian new issue stamp posters (known as "illustrated announcements") began in 1935 with Scott 211-216. Printed on glossy paper in black/white, this poster gave no day of issue; and I think remarkably, was issued under the authority of "the Acting Deputy Postmaster General." (They had real delegation in those days). Three years later, the date of issue (D.O.I.) started appearing on posters. Omission of D.O.I. would return 36 years later, when it was left off the Scott 572-3 poster. (Oops).
- 2. Before illustrated announcements appeared, information about new stamp issues came out variously in "department orders and circulars," "notices to postmasters" and "weekly bulletins." I have Department Order No. 2, issued on 1 March, 1868. It was the second communiqué to postmasters since Confederation. It contained rate notifications, and an announcement of a pending issue in denomi-

The Page & Panel Journal [4th Quarter 2002]

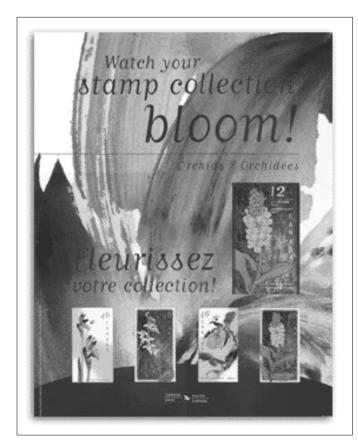
PHILATELY OR EPHEMERA (CONTINUED)

- nations of ½ cent to 15 cents. It may be one of only two or three extant copies.
- 3. In 1956, the P.O.D. started issuing P.S. 14's to the public (see the Announcement illustrated on the next page for the Pulp & Paper and Chemical Industry issues, Scott 362-3.) They are small: appearing first in English or French single sheets, and then bilingual, folded with an order form attached. Usually the paper was the same as the poster. Likely they came from the same printer and the same order.
- 4. Since 1994, P.S. 14's have not been issued. Poster release has been erratic, with a bizarre variation in style, size and content (see illustration below.) The long-standing marketing strategy that was based on familiarity and

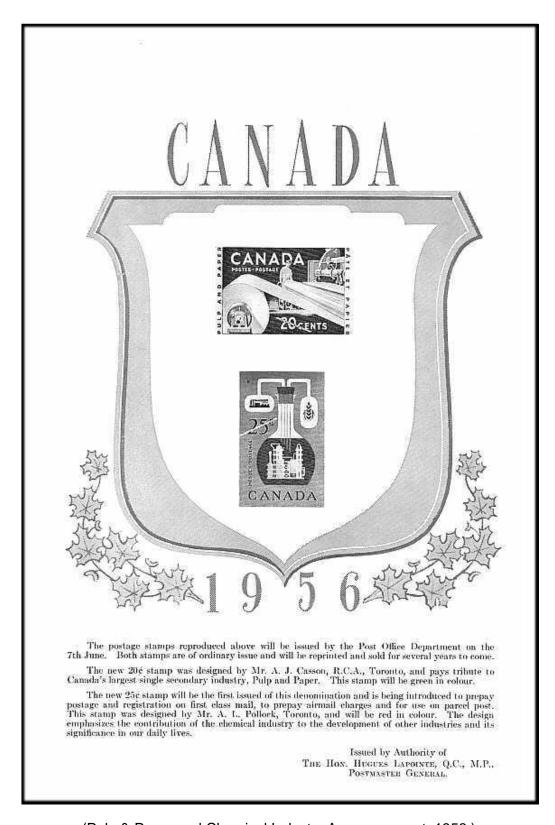


Thank you for allowing me to share my experience with Canadian illustrated announcements. But, having been asked to send in some notes, I can't pass up the opportunity to make an appeal. I desperately want to locate better quality posters for Scott's 231, 289-293 (may not exist), 395, all of 1962, 410, 401-404, 420-1, 476. I am willing to make attractive trades for these items.

On the exchange side, I welcome correspondence and questions. Please e-mail me at ciad-milefailte2002@yahoo.com or write to me at 184 Larkin Drive, Nepean, Ont. Canada K2J 1H9.



[Editor's Note: I have a few Canadian stamp announcements, especially on topical and joint US/ Canada issues, and I find them to be an interesting and exciting addition to my collection. I'm hoping that some of you might share in this interest and contact both David and I to let us know what you collect and what you're interested in discussing. If interest is sufficient, I hope to get David to become a regular contributor to the Page & Panel Journal and to expand our coverage of philatelic pages and panels into non-US announcements. I'd love to hear any of your thoughts on that matter as well! You can email me at ronw@asppp.org or contact me at the ASPPP, PO Box 1042, Washington Township, NJ 07676 address.1



(Pulp & Paper and Chemical Industry Announcement, 1956.)

PAGES AND PANELS AT GRAEBNER AFDCS CHAPTER

By May Day Taylor

On October 19, 2002, Cassandra Abdelmeguid, Marketing Specialist, Stamp Services USPS, was the guest speaker at the Graebner Chapter First Day Cover Society monthly meeting. About 20 AFDCS Chapter members were in attendance and eager to hear Cassandra's remarks. Rollin Berger, Graebner Society President, made the introductions.

Cassandra explained that her presentation would describe the 2003 stamp program and the USPS subscription programs. She explained that the thrust of her job was to bring in new business to the Postal Service. The USPS is concerned with the declining numbers of Page, Panel and Program subscribers, and Cassandra is looking for ways to revitalize the subscription programs. Cassandra spoke about new printers and Designers for the Pages and Panels.

Cassandra encourages customer input. This input is needed to make the programs successful. Cassandra also indicated a willingness to pay special attention to comments on all aspects of the subscription programs.

With a slide screen, her laptop and hard copies in color (photo on following page), Cassandra presented the 2003 USPS Stamp Program: "A Nation of Firsts." Specifically, she highlighted First Flight, Chief Justice Thurgood Marshall and the Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge, and then began with a chronological review of each new stamp in the 2003 program.

"Like all corporations today, the USPS is cutting back." The 2003 stamp program has 20 new commemoratives with maybe 4 or 5 definitives for a total of about 50 different stamp designs.

Various club members commented on the stamp program. The First Flight is slated to be in the Loony Tunes format of 10 stamps per page. The stamp sponsors in North Carolina want to have the First Day Of Issue in December 2003 with The Page & Panel Journal [4th Quarter 2002]

the Wright family descendants attending but the USPS is looking at issuing the stamp earlier in the year. It was explained that the Events office finalizes the FDI dates and locations. Many dates and other details have not been firmed up.

The Lunar New Year stamp (Year of the Ram) is slated for February 1; the Ohio Statehood stamp is tentatively scheduled for issuance on March 1 in Marietta, the site of the first permanent settlement in the Northwest Territory. The Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge stamp is scheduled for March 14 at the first established wildlife refuge in Verno Beach, FL. The Old Glory prestige book will likely be introduced on April 3 at the Mega Stamp Show in NYC. The lighthouses stamps are planned for June issuance at the Old Cape Henry Lighthouse in Virginia. The Reptiles and Amphibians stamps will tentatively debut in early October. Club members especially liked the Korean War commemorative as well as the upcoming Purple Heart stamp.

At the conclusion of the 2003 Stamp Program presentation, Cassandra shared samples of recent First Day Ceremony Programs with the club members. The discussion was brief as most members were familiar with Ceremony Programs. Then she offered American Commemorative Collectible Panels of the 34 cent Greetings from America stamps which were politely accepted by all. When a member opened the shrink wrapped package and discovered a full page of stamps was included behind the Panel, there was an even bigger enthusiasm for what she was sharing.

Cassandra distributed a subscription application for American Commemorative Collectibles and I distributed an application for the ASPPP to everyone present. There was considerable curiosity and general conversation about these printed things that on the surface seemed to most people to be collateral material more than philatelically related items. It was in-

GRAEBNER (CONTINUED)

teresting (alarming) how little awareness there was for something produced by our USPS. The meeting ended in open conversation with Cassandra as Graebner Society members eagerly shared stories and asked questions (photo below.)

Cassandra found the Graebner meeting contained a wealth of information for her to take back to Headquarters and she looks forward to working closely with all collectors in her efforts to continually improve the subscription programs for the USPS.

Cassandra is clearly enthusiastic about collecting and has absorbed as much information as was offered so that she could take it back to L'Enfant Plaza and improve the programs she is working on for us. Cassandra plans to return as often as her schedule allows, continuing to seek advice and reactions to the evolving USPS offerings.

As a ps - Cassandra gave me three Greetings Panels that were left. I gave them to three young people who were attending a Yorktown Day celebration in the afternoon. One teenager eagerly opened his package and his face lit up

when he saw the stamps. He said with great enthusiasm "Does this mean I can become a Stamp Collector now?" Of course, I said "YES!"





REVIEW: POSTAL SERVICE GUIDE TO US STAMPS

By John Ngai

Continuing as I have done for the past several years, I am providing a review of the *Postal Service Guide to US Stamps* (29th edition), which was recently published by the US Postal Service.

This latest edition for use in 2003 was available for sale in October, 2002. I bought my copy at the ASDA Mega Show held at the Javits Convention Center in New York in late October, 2002.

The Postal Service Guide is a valuable source of information to all philatelists and stamp collectors as it contains all US stamps issued since inception with pictures of each stamp, Scott numbers, and catalog values.

The latest edition of the *Postal Service Guide* is 592 pages, is softbound and weighs almost 2 pounds due to the glossy paper used. The price is now \$18.95, an increase of \$1 from the prior edition.

Anyone interested in ordering the book from the USPS can do so by calling 1-800-STAMP24; the order code is 880200. This publication may also be available at USPS Postal Philatelic Centers, and at various stamp shows.

My primary interests in the *Guide* are the Commemorative Cancellations (formerly Souvenir Pages) and Commemorative Panels sections, and the ASPPP society listing. Our society is listed on page 540 and has the correct contact information for anyone interested in learning about our society. Our new website address is not listed in the *Guide* as it went to press before we got out website in place.

For the purposes of this review, I am using Commemorative Cancellations and Souvenir Pages synonymously, as the new terminology only went into effect in 2002 whereas the latest reference numbers are through 2001 when the term "Souvenir Pages" was still in effect.

The Souvenir Pages and Commemorative Panels section can be found on page 522, with listings starting on pages 522 to page 535. The listings continue to be correct after my efforts back in 2000 to have the Postal Service use their own printed numbers on Souvenir Pages and commemorative Panels in the *Guide*. Therefore, this book serves as a basic reference tool for the collector. Values continue to be assigned by Scott Publishing as in past editions.

The *Guide* lists Souvenir Pages and Commemorative PanesI through the year 2001, and I found them to be in synch with the actual Pages and Panels produced by the US Postal Service in the year 2001.

Starting in 2001, pages are listed with the 4 digit number in the same format as shown on the souvenir page; the listings from 2000 and back were listed in the guide as 4 digits but separated by a hyphen (00-29, page is 0029). I can live with this discrepancy!!

Souvenir Page prices have largely decreased when compared year to year with some earlier pages showing a Scott catalog price of as low as \$1.25; the prior edition shows prices as low as \$1.50. The Pages for 2001 did not have a price or value shown.

Family Planning is still listed with a value of \$500. Pages issued since the later part of 1994 to the present show a catalog value of \$6 and higher.

Commemorative Panel prices have largely decreased when compared year to year; the lowest price for some earlier Panels as catalogued by Scott Publishing remained at \$4.75. Panels issued since 1995 show a catalog value of \$10 and higher.

Personally, I look at the prices listed as a reference point, certainly NOT indicative of what I would pay for a Page or Panel. The results of the

REVIEW: GUIDE (CONTINUED)

recent ASPPP auction, and dealer catalogues support this point of view!! One dealer has some Pages listed for sale at \$1. [Editor's note: we have also stressed that since Pages and Panels are frequently sold at a discount as complete year sets, the value of a collection is not simply the sum of the values for Pages or Panels in that year. To sell one individual topical Page or Panel, a dealer might have to break up a year set, which reduces his possibility of selling those remaining Pages or Panels in the future; you pay a premium for that one Page or Panel.]

I recently acquired a collection of Souvenir Pages in the ASPPP auction where my average price per page was about \$.60

At my suggestion and direction last year, the USPS did include a notation in the 29th edition that Pages 9945 to 9949 are unassigned. The prior year, I had them insert 91-38 to 91-47 as unassigned as well as to make substantial changes to their listings.

I am glad that Kelly Spinks, Sheila Edison, Betty Zelkowitz and others at the USPS who are responsible for production of the *Postal Service Guide to US Stamps* are listening and accepting our suggestions and corrections for this reference tool. This benefits the entire collecting community, and I am proud that our society can make a difference in this regard.

In late October, 2002, our society was contacted for any changes to the society listing for the next edition. I am surprised the USPS is starting so early!; normally we have "time to digest" the current edition. Then, around the April timeframe, we try to get the changes in and six months later, the guide is issued in late October for the next year.

Anyway, our changes will be in the society listing, where we wanted to update Gerald Blankenship's email address and have our website address included. These changes have been submitted.

We are also asking the USPS to update their

website located at <u>www.stampsonline.com</u> to include the same information in their section under Resources: Societies and Organizations.

Also, I noticed in the *Postal Service Guide* a section called "What other stamp materials can I collect"? This is in the front section of the *Guide*, on page 15. Since the USPS is trying to promote stamp collecting, I believe it is appropriate that there be a paragraph with description and pictorial about Commemorative Cancellations and Commemorative Panels; all are official postal products.

First Day covers and First day ceremony programs are already mentioned in this section. IF they accept this suggestion, perhaps the collecting community and the dealers will get to know what these products, which have existed for more than 30 years, are all about!!

It is also the primary basis of our society's existence.

In the 28th edition, the USPS included a pictorial of a Commemorative Panel on page 15, but NO description of the product or what it is! For the 29th edition, the pictorial included a first day ceremony program, amongst others.

I have submitted a proposed writeup to Betty Zelkowitz, who is the project assistant for production of the *Postal Service Guide to US Stamps*, and who has asked about our society listing. Hopefully, we will see it in the 30th edition next year.

If you want to read the prior reviews of the *Postal Service Guide* in our *Page & Panel Journal*, see: Vol 17 #1 for the 26th edition (2000) review Vol 17 #4 for the 27th edition (2001) review Vol 18 #4 for the 28th edition (2002) review

Go out and obtain the *Postal Service Guide to US Stamps*, 29th edition; as a collector of Pages and Panels, you will find pages 522 to page 535 very useful and informative. The price of the catalog is worth its weight!! (see paragraph 4 above).

MEDAL OF HONOR

By Gerald Blankenship

This past October, I had the honor of being a guest of a Medal of Honor recipient at the Medal of Honor Convention in Shreveport, Louisiana. One of the seventy-six recipients that I was privileged to meet was Thomas Kelley. Since I had already chosen him to be the topic of this month's article, it was a special moment for me. All of these men have legendary status as American heroes; yet it seems to me that there is humbleness about them, and Thomas Kelley is no exception.

Thomas Kelley was born on May 13,1939, in South Boston. One of his earliest memories is when his uncle took him on a tour of the USS Missouri at the age of seven; it sparked an early interest in being a sailor that re-surfaced as an adult. After attending Holy Cross College in Worcester, Kelley joined the navy in 1960. His first assignment was on the USS Pandemus, a World War II landing ship, which he describes as "[unglamorous]" (Mikaelian 259). He served as the operation's officer in charge of radar and communications for three years and was in the Caribbean during the Cuban Missile Crisis. When his navy hitch was up, he decided to stay on because he had married and was seeking stability. In 1964, promoted to lieutenant, he served on the destroyer USS Davis and later on the USS Stickell. Kelley states that during this time "a little patriotism" had crept into him and he realized that serving in the navy was a "noble experience" (Mikaelian 260).

As the buildup in Vietnam occurred, Kelley knew that he wanted to be there and believed fervently in the mission to help make South Vietnam a democracy. And in 1968 he got that opportunity.

Because the Mekong Delta is a "twisting maze of canals, rivulets, and marshes, which accounts for one-quarter of the land mass of South Vietnam" the navy had to come up with a plan to dis-

rupt the supply lines and river operations of the Vietcong (Mikaelian). One solution was the Mobile Riverine Force (MRF) which was a craft consisting of a modified World War II era armored troop carrier. They were about 50 feet long and rectangular, with a bow ramp that could drop to the beach, allowing the soldiers waiting inside to disembark. Each craft was crewed by about five sailors but could carry up to 25 soldiers. The boats would drop off the soldiers, and then later extract them from another location. Exposed on the river, they were frequent targets of the Viet Cong who were hiding in the jungle.

In January of 1969, Kelley was sent to the Cambodian border with eight of these boats in an effort to stop the flow of arms and personnel across the Cambodian border. It was considered one of the most dangerous assignments in Vietnam. Usually the men were escorted with air support to beef up protection. However, on June 15, 1969, after a full day of inserting troops and repositioning troops under the protection of helicopter support, they were told that they would have one more insertion and extraction - there would be no helicopter support. As you read the unfolding of events that led to Kelley's Medal of Honor, know that in keeping with the true heroic spirit of the past, Kelley questioned his right to the medal: "I didn't feel that what I had done warranted that particular award..." (Mikaelian 266)

After Kelley recovered from his injuries received that day, he asked the navy to let him continue to serve. The navy allowed him to continue so he signed up for a management courses at the navy's graduate school. From 1975 to 1977 he worked for the Bureau of Personnel near the Pentagon. And in 1977, Kelley was given command of a ship – the USS *Lang*, a fast frigate based in San Diego. During the remainder of his naval career, he achieved several promotions

MEDAL OF HONOR (CONTINUED)

along the way: lieutenant commander in 1970, commander in 1976, and captain in1982. All in all, Kelley served thirty years in the navy. In a final observation, he declared that "we in the

military are the public servants and the ships that we sail and the airplanes that we fly in, the belong to the American people, we're just the caretakers."



THOMAS G. KELLEY

RANK AND ORGANIZATION:

Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy, River Assault Division 152.

PLACE AND DATE:

Ong Muong Canal, Kien Hoa Province, Republic of Vietnam, 15 June 1969.

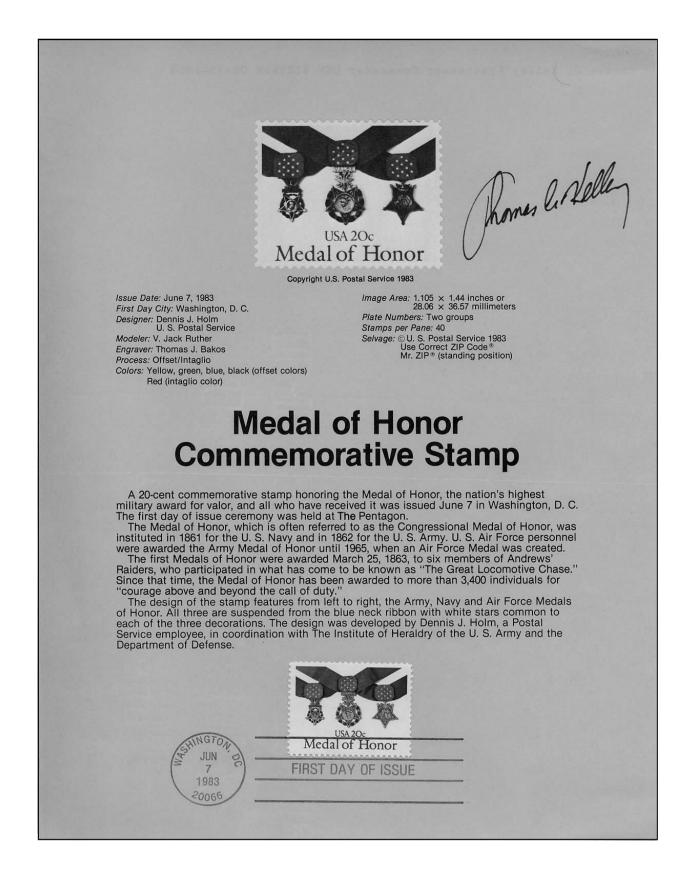
BIRTHPLACE:

Boston, Massachusetts

CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty in the afternoon while serving as commander of River Assault Division 152 during combat operations against enemy aggressor forces. Lt. Comdr. (then Lt.) Keffey was in charge of a column of eight river assault craft which were extracting one company of U.S. Army infantry troops on the east bank of the Ong Muong Canal in Kien Hoa Province, when one of the armored troop carriers reported a mechanical failure of a loading ramp. At approximately the same time, Viet Cong forces opened fire from the opposite bank of the canal. After issuing orders for the crippled troop carrier to raise its ramp manually, and for the remaining boats to form a protective cordon around the disabled craft, Lt. Comdr. Kelley realizing the extreme danger to his column and its inability to clear the ambush site until the crippled unit was repaired, boldly maneuvered the monitor in which he was embarked to the exposed side of the protective cordon in direct line with the enemy's fire, and ordered the monitor to commence firing. Suddenly, an enemy rocket scored a direct hit on the coxswain's flat, the shell penetrating the thick armor plate, and the explosion spraying shrapnel in all directions. Sustaining serious head wounds from the blast, which hurled him to the deck of the monitor, Lt. Comdr. Kelley disregarded his severe injuries and attempted to continue directing the other boats. Although unable to move from the deck or to speak clearly into the radio, he succeeded in relaying his commands through one of his men until the enemy attack was silenced and the boats were able to move to an area of safety. Lt. Condr. Kelley's brilliant leadership, bold initiative, and resolute determination served to inspire his men and provide the impetus needed to carry out the mission after he was medically evacuated by helicopter. His extraordinary courage under fire, and his selfless devotion to duty sustain and enhance the finest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.

(Thomas G. Kelley's Medal of Honor Citation)



(Medal of Honor Souvenir Page autographed by Thomas G. Kelley)

ELECTION 2003— ASPPP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

By ASPPP Election Committee Chairman Lloyd deVries

As per the ASPPP By-Laws, it is time once again to elect the Members of the Board of Directors. Additionally, there is a question on expanding the number of Board Members to be elected.

Ballot choices may be submitted via email to a special address I have set up for this election: ASPPP@virtualstampclub.com, or may be sent by regular mail to ASPPP Election, c/o Dragon Cards, PO Box 561, Paramus, NJ 07653. Ballots (or email) must be **received** by January 31,

2003. Ballots may be included with your dues payment, if preferred, and will be forwarded to the Election Chairman if received by January 31. Otherwise, ballots sent to any other address or email address will not be counted. Include your membership number from your mailing label.

The results will be published in the next *Page & Panel Journal*. As per the By-Laws, the Board of Directors will then convene and elect a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

ASPPP 2002 Election Ballot

Members of the Board of Directors, 2-year term (vote for 6)

Gerald Blankenship	Write-in:
◯ John Ngai	Write-in:
Gary West	Write-in:
◯ Jim Canon	Write-in:
O David Weinberg	Write-in:
May Day Taylor	Write-in:
	on Walenciak) and the Founder (Bud Scrantom) are auto
Question to cha	nge the By-Laws (vote Yes or No)
Should the number of elected Boa	rd Members be expanded from six (6) to seven (7)?
Yes	○ No

Interpretive Statement: The Board of Directors would like to have an additional seat available to be able to add a member in the next two years who will grow into a leadership position in the society. The position will be filled by the President when deemed desirable, at the approval of the Board of Directors (as per the existing By-Laws). Currently, there is no candidate for this position.

2003 ANNUAL AUCTION NOTES

By ASPPP Auction Chairman Gerald Blankenship

The 2003 ASPPP auction is fast approaching. Several members have already sent in their lots for the auction, which will be printed in the May, 2003 *Page & Panel Journal*. There will only be one more notice in the *Journal* (February) before the auction lots will be sent to the printer.

I need your lots no later than April 13, 2003. You can ship the lots to ASPPP Auction, P.O. Box 475, Crosby, TX 77532, or ship them to my home address at 539 North Gum Gully, Crosby, Texas 77532.

We have had several very successful auctions the past few years, so it pays to use our auction. Not only will you be selling your duplicates Pages and Panels, but your society will benefit by the commission that is collected. I want to thank each of those who have sent in auction lots already and especially those of you that have bid in previous years.

As always, we gratefully accept lots donated to the society (see below).

ATTENTION ASPPP MEMBERS

We still need donations of Souvenir Pages, Stamp Posters and even Commemorative Panels, if you have any to spare. At each annual meeting we give away hundreds of Pages to prospective members and we have tried an experiment in *Linn's* where a new membership included 6 free Stamp Posters. We have been including a set of North American Wildlife Pages with each new paid membership as an Americover show special and as a web special (which worked very well in Houston, not as well in Denver or Chicago.) A member donated 15 sets for that purpose and we are running low. Also, we are accepting item's as donations to the ASPPP to help raise funds for special projects. In the near future we hope to have available a CD with several inventory lists of Souvenir Pages, Commemorative panels, Porter Philatelic Pages, Bud Scrantom's Joint Issue Pages and Postal Stationery Pages, as well as PNC Pages, Pages with coil lines, and Pages with booklet varieties. This is one of the many projects your board is working on.

Send any donations to ASPPP, P.O. Box 475, Crosby TX 77532.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Information of interest to ASPPP Members

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As per Article 7.1 of our By-Laws, this is notice that the following new members have applied for membership in the ASPPP:

2268.. Welch, Joanne; Glenwood MN 2269.. Kessler, Joanne; Miami FL 2270.. Weeks, Kenneth L.; Indianapolis IN 2271.. Sears, Michael; Silver Spring MD 2272.. Roper, Libby C.; Evergreen CO

New Members shall remain "provisional" until the publication of the next *Journal*, at which time they will be listed in the section below as "New Regular Members" provided no dissenting vote based on evidence that the person is not of good character is received by the Membership Chairman, as per By-Laws Article 7.2.

Membership Statistics:

Collecting Interest Codes:

US Souvenir Pages Α В Watermarks on Pages С Plate Number Coils on Pages D Error pages Ε Page Oddities & Varieties F First Day Canceled Stamp Posters G Mint (uncanceled) Stamp Posters Н Privately-produced Pages **US Commemorative Panels** ı Error panels J

First Day Canceled Panels

New Regular Members:

Berry, Robert E. (#2264) Interests: A,F,G,I PO Box 3121, Winter Haven FL 33885-3121

Gowing, Elizabeth (#2267) Interests: A,D,E,G CA

Schaffer, Alvin D. (#2265) Interests: A,F,G,I 82 Lowell Ave., West Orange NJ 07052-3710

Waters, Sally G. (#2266) Interests: A,E,F PO Box 10910, St. Petersburg FL 33733-0910

Membership Directory/Address Changes:

Aldrich, Leo H. 3904 S. Terry Ave #262, Sioux Falls SD 57106

Hitchcox, Donald W. (deceased)

Laughlin, Edward B. (deceased)

Muir, Rich 586 Cannon Dr., Geneva IL 60134-5007

Schuler, William G. 744 Cowpath Rd., Telford PA 18969-2150

Page & Panel Philatelic Events:

Future ASPPP Board meetings and show attendance:

AMERICOVER 2003, Somerset, NJ

August 1-3, 2003 at the Doubletree Hotel; society meeting Saturday August 2, time to be determined. Additional details on this show will be printed as they become available.

AMERICOVER 2004, Indianapolis, IN

The Page & Panel Journal [4th Quarter 2002]

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ASPPP WEB SITE UPDATE

By Ron Walenciak

The www.asppp.org web site continues to expand and to evolve, and you will soon see the Page & Panel Journal use some of the information we have created for the web.

The major change since my previous report in Volume 19#3 is that we have separated the "Page & Panel Wave History" into two separate "Cancellation Page Shipments" "Commemorative Panel Shipments" pages, and listed each Page and Panel individually. We now display the number, issue date, description, stamps affixed or mounted, and the original price; each Cancellation Page Shipment Number is linked to a page that includes scans of all the Pages in the shipment, and each Page Number is linked to a full size scan of that Page. We are in the process of doing the same for Commemorative Panels.

Gary West will resume his Page Review column in the next *Journal*, and we will present the information in the same manner as the web tables, expanding it with a paragraph identifying any interesting information about the Pages in that shipment. John Ngai has agreed to do the same for Commemorative Panels, as he supplies that information for the web now. In both cases, I will be adding my thoughts to the *Journal's* reviews, so they will truly be a collaborative effort.

The "Page or Panel of the Month" for November was a James Weldon Johnson Souvenir Page with a second-day-of-issue cancellation, and for December it was Robert Porter's PPP#100. If anyone has a suggestion for a Page or Panel of the month, feel free to suggest it to me at ronw@asppp.org.

I'm also open to suggestions on any changes or additions to the web site.

One of the things I discussed in my "President's Letter" this issue is the creation of Study Groups to focus our collecting and study of specific Page and Panel collecting interests. The web site will

play a big part in the EFO/Varieties Study Group (Errors, Freaks and Oddities); since I will be scanning every Page and Panel, viewers of the web site will instantly be able to compare what they have received to the "baseline" of what I have received. Any differences in cancellations, stamp order, stamps affixed, stamp or cancellation position, printing on the Page or Panel or possibly even color will be obvious, and would be reported by email for inclusion in the next *Journal*.

I would like to formally ask for volunteers to pledge to participate on that level. These volunteers will be expected to compare their Pages and Panels to the web scans as soon as they are received. Whether you are personally interested in EFOs or Varieties doesn't really matter; you just have to have a good eye for detail. Email me if you are interested.

We also expect to eventually include downloadable lists (Excel spreadsheets) of Pages, Posters, PNC Pages, Watermark Varieties and Booklet Pane Pages. I expect that viewers of the web site will also communicate new discoveries to us after realizing that we are interested in that sort of detail.

Do take a look at the site and come back often (at least monthly) to see what we've added. If you haven't been receiving email from me on a monthly basis, we probably don't have your email address; email it to me and we'll keep you informed of any changes to the site, as well as any news of interest to Page and Panel collectors. We won't give out your email address to anyone outside of the ASPPP Membership (although I will probably print a list of member's email addresses in a future *Journal* as I have done once in the past; I thought it would be a good way of members communicating with members about Page and Panel issues. Any thoughts on that subject?

MEMBER ADS

CONDITIONS

Members may place one free classified ad per *Journal* (requests for additional ads will be honored on a space-available basis.) Send ads to the Editor, Ron Walenciak, 736 Colonial Blvd., Washington Township, NJ 07676-3922. Ads can be run for one to three issues. Space will be allocated to Page, Panel and Poster ads first; after that we will print any ads that you think might interest the membership.

Souvenir Pages

100 different USPS souvenir Pages—well mixed, \$40, postage paid. Contact: Gerald Blankenship (#134CL), PO Box 475, Crosby, TX 77532.

MISCELLANEOUS WANTED - FOR SALE - TRADE

Super Savings on our Super Bowl XXXVII Sale

on First Day Ceremony and Event Programs. Save 37% on a wide range of programs covering many topics. For list and details of the sale please send #10 SASE (60-cents) to: Leo Stawicki (ASPPP #1181), Dept ASPPP, 76 Poplar Dr., Yorkville IL 60560-9523.

AUCTIONS

Stamp Center/Dutch Country auctions feature Panels, Pages, Programs, Covers, Collections, accumulations, wholesale and bulk lots, Cover lots plus choice US and Worldwide Singles & Sets, along with Americana, coins and sports cards. Upcoming auctions:

#224, January 17-18, 2003

Get a free catalog from the Stamp Center (ASPPP #1114), 4115 Concord Pike, Wilmington, DE 19803. Phone: 302/478-8740.

For Sale by the ASPPP (all prices postpaid)

- Facsimile year 2000 Souvenir Pages (see page 25 ad): \$20.00 per set/6 different pages.
- The Page & Panel Journal, back issue (2nd Quarter 2002, Volume 19 Number 2): \$4.00.
- The Page & Panel Journal, back issue (1st Quarter 2002, Volume 19 Number 1): ***sold out***.
- The Page & Panel Journal, back issue (4th Quarter 2001, Volume 18 Number 4): \$3.00.
- The Page & Panel Journal, back issue (3rd Quarter 2001, Volume 18 Number 3): \$3.00.
- The Page & Panel Journal, back issue (2nd Quarter 2001, Volume 18 Number 2): \$3.00.
- The Page & Panel Journal, back issue (1st Quarter 2001, Volume 18 Number 1): \$3.00.
- The Page & Panel Journal, back issue (4th Quarter 2000, Volume 17 Number 4): ***sold out***
- The Page & Panel Journal, back issue (3rd Quarter 2000, Volume 17 Number 3): ***sold out***
- The Page & Panel Journal, back issue (2nd Quarter 2000, Volume 17 Number 2): \$2.00.
- The Page & Panel Journal, back issue (1st Quarter 2000, Volume 17 Number 1): \$2.00.
- The Page & Panel Journal, back issue (4th Quarter 1999, Volume 16 Number 4): \$2.00.

Send your request with check or money order to:

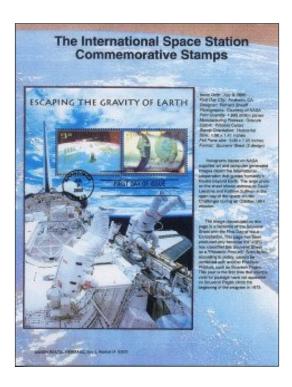
ASPPP, Gerald Blankenship, PO Box 475, Crosby, TX 77532.

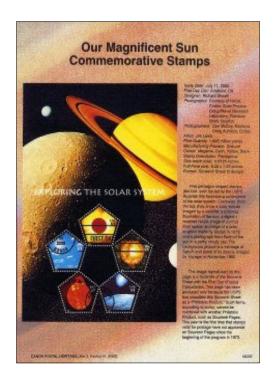
The Missing Year 2000 Souvenir Pages Canon Postal Heritage Facsimile Pages

In the year 2000, stamps were issued to commemorate US Navy Submarines, Space Achievement and Exploration, Moon Landing, Escaping the Gravity of Earth, Probing the Vastness of Space, and Exploring the Solar System. The USPS, in an attempt to follow some obscure "rule" of its own creation, declined to create Souvenir Pages for these stamps and souvenir sheets because they "cannot" affix one "Philatelic Product" (the stamps) to another "Philatelic Product" (a Souvenir Page). These are the **only** US postage stamps issued without a Souvenir Page since the beginning of the Souvenir Page program in 1972.

Jim Canon of Canon Postal Heritage created these facsimile "Souvenir Pages" (2 of the 6 pages are shown below) to fill the void that now exists in each of our collections. Note that the stamps, sheets and cancellations are <u>facsimiles</u>, not the actual stamps. At the point where we were advised that these Souvenir Pages were not being made, there wasn't time to create Philatelic Pages and have the actual stamps affixed and canceled. Jim donated a number of sets of these Pages to the ASPPP. Profits from the sale of these facsimile pages go directly to the ASPPP treasury. If you have web access, go to www.asppp.org to see the entire set (besides, they look a lot better in color!)

The set is priced at \$20, postpaid. Send your check to Gerald Blankenship, ASPPP Membership Chairman, PO Box 475, Crosby TX 77532.





ASPPP MEMBER RENEWAL BONUS OFFER

The society received a donation of First Day Cancelled Stamp Posters, and in an attempt to entice some of you into expanding your Page collection beyond the boundaries of the USPS subscription, we made an offer on our web site to give six (6) free Stamp Posters with each two-year renewal. Catalog value is in excess of \$30, easily exceeding the \$29 cost of a membership renewal. We would also like to extend this offer to our members who do not have web access or simply haven't seen our society website. (If you do have web access, go to www.asppp.org as they look a lot better in color.)

You can choose any six from among the twelve Stamp Posters shown below. Offer valid while supplies last. Send a renewal form along with your check to Gerald Blankenship, ASPPP Membership Chairman, PO Box 475, Crosby TX 77532.



American Society for Philatelic Pages & Panels (ASPPP) 1 home

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